



City of Rockville, Maryland
Department of Recreation and Parks

Woottons Mill Garden Plot Program



The City of Rockville has extensive parks and open spaces, including garden plots located at Woottons Mill Park. Woottons Mill Park is located at 472 Hurley Avenue and features 106.5 acres of land, tennis and basketball courts, forest preserve and nature trail, foot bridge, playground, picnic tables, and grills.

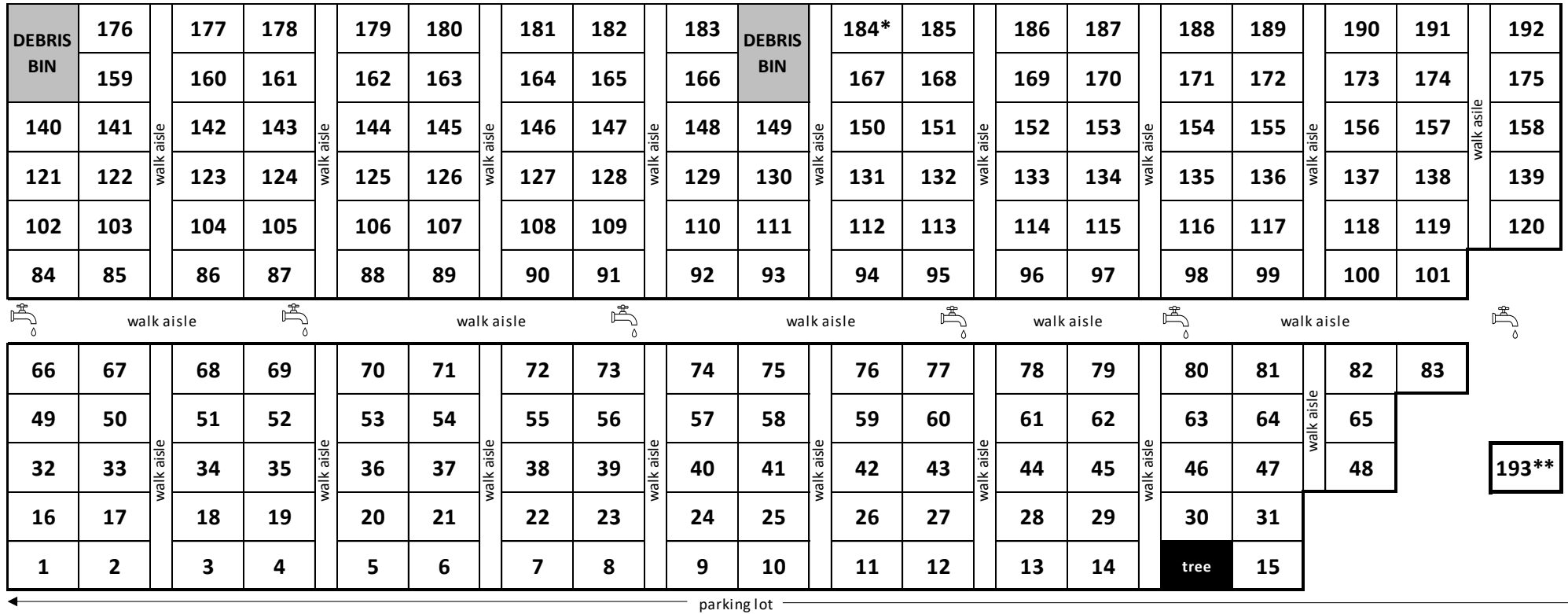
The Department of Recreation and Parks is responsible for caring and maintaining our parks. With community centers, a nature center, civic center, swim and fitness center, golf course and senior center, and a full range of outdoor recreation amenities, we are committed to offering a variety of recreational opportunities for all residents. Owned and operated by the City of Rockville, Maryland.

The Wootton Mills Garden Plots Program is managed by:

Rockville Civic Center Business Office
Glenview Mansion
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville, MD 20851
240-314-8660 (phone) | 240-314-8669 (fax)
woottonsmill@rockvillemd.gov

All times listed within this information packet is Eastern Standard Time.
All information in this packet is subject to change.

WOOTTONS MILL GARDEN PLOT MAP



*Plot 184 is 20' x 20' and reserved for City programming

**Plot 193 is a 5' x 25' raised bed



indicates a water spigot

IMPORTANT COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Gardening has become a very important part of all our lives. It allows us to commune with nature and produce food for our families. Gardening has also provided a balance during COVID-19 that benefits us both mentally and physically. The City of Rockville continues to follow guidance from federal, state, and local health officials to ensure the safety of our program participants. When using your garden plot, please use the following guidelines and best practices to ensure everyone stays safe and healthy:

- Do not come to the Woottons Mill Garden Plots if you are sick with any COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms, are otherwise instructed to remain at home, or came into contact or share a home with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is exhibiting COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms.
- If you do not have hand sanitizer, consider carrying a container with soapy water and a washcloth to make hand washing easier while in the garden area.
- Any personal protective equipment (PPE) such as wipes, face coverings, and gloves that you bring on-site must be disposed of in proper trash receptacles. Do **not** dispose of any PPE into the organic bin area or orange barrels (when available). A large trash dumpster will be provided in the parking lot solely for the use of Woottons Mill Garden Plots.

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the City of Rockville's Woottons Mill Garden Plot Program, and related events and activities, during the COVID-19 virus epidemic, all users agree to adhere to guidelines set by the CDC and mandated by the Rockville Mayor and Council. The program participant acknowledges, appreciates, and voluntarily agrees to these terms, as framed below:

- Agree and accept the risk that the program could be adjusted or closed at any time when deemed necessary based on health and/or safety reasons. All programs are subject to modification and/or cancellation based on orders from Rockville Mayor and Council, the Montgomery County Executive, or the State of Maryland Governor and are subject to the guidelines indicated in the City of Rockville's reopening plans, Montgomery County's Executive Orders, Montgomery County's reopening plans, and/or the State of Maryland's reopening plans.
- Understand and accept that the City will do its best to enforce all applicable recommendations for the prevention of spreading COVID-19. I understand, however, that the conditions of some programs may not allow for perfect enforcement of these precautions and I assume the risk of participation. I waive and release the City from any and all claims and liability of any kind related to that participation.
- Agree to and understand that if a program participant or spectator fails to follow these requirements, they may not be allowed access to the program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Rockville, Maryland operates a garden plot program located at Woottons Mill Park, 472 Hurley Avenue in Rockville, Maryland. There are 193 plots available for use between Friday, April 1, 2022 to Sunday, November 13, 2022. Each plot is approximately 25' x 25' except for Plot 184 which is 20' x 20' and reserved for City programming, and Plot 193 which is a 5' x 25' raised bed.

PROGRAM FEE

Rockville Residents:	\$75 per plot for the season
Non-Rockville Residents:	\$85 per plot for the season

ROCKVILLE RESIDENCY

The Rockville resident program fee applies to those owning property or living within the corporate tax district of the City of Rockville. Proof of residency is required at time of enrollment and includes driver's license, lease agreement, deed to house, utility bill, and homeowner or renter's insurance. The program form must be in the name of the Rockville resident(s) and the home address must be located within incorporated Rockville, Maryland. The Rockville resident program rate is only available at the time of enrollment and will not be applied later. Check your residency using the [GIS City Map](#).

RENEWALS AND OPEN REGISTRATION

- Renewals for existing program participants ends on **Monday, December 20, 2021**.
- Open registration begins on **Monday, January 10, 2022** and is available through the season.

The number of available plots will vary year to year. All available plots are first-come, first-served and plots may not be held. Payment is due immediately upon enrollment. Failure to pay the program fee will result in the plot being made available to others. **Once enrollment is complete no refunds will be issued.** If paying by check, please include the completed program form along with check payable to the "City of Rockville." Send the check here: Rockville Civic Center Park, c/o Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851. It is the participant's responsibility to confirm and ensure that the enrollment process is complete by contacting the Rockville Civic Center Business Office at woottonsmill@rockvilleme.gov.

RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

All registered participants agree to maintain the plot and surrounding pathways for the entire season. The weeds must be kept at a minimum and crops must be harvested when ready. Early or late use of a registered garden plot is strictly prohibited. If, at any time, gardeners are unable to maintain the plot, notification must be provided to the Rockville Civic Center Business Office at woottonsmill@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8660 so the plot may be offered to others. Registered participants in the Woottons Mill Garden Plot Program shall be fully responsible for and shall indemnify and hold the City of Rockville harmless from any damage to or loss of objects or property and for any personal injury incurred during or as a result of City property use. Participating in this program is at your own risk. If you observe illegal activities in the garden plots and/or park, contact the Rockville City Police immediately to report the incident and file a report.

Phone Number to Non-Emergency Police Dispatch:	240-314-8900
Urgent or Life-Threatening Emergencies:	Call 911

EARLY USE AND END OF SEASON CLEAN-UP

Use of a garden plot before the season begins is strictly prohibited – **no exceptions apply**.

The deadline for clearing your plot is **Sunday, November 13, 2022**. Be prepared to clear all items from the garden plot site. All trash and garden debris must be disposed of in the dumpster located in the parking

lot. Organic disposal bins are available for organic materials, weeds, plants, and rocks are available throughout the clean-up process. Debris may not be left on the outer perimeter of the garden area. All fencing, caging, weed barrier, containers, hoses, tools, and other garden supplies must be removed from the park property. There is no storage at the plot site from one season to another.

Use of a garden plot before the season begins and/or failure to clear your plot by the deadline will result in a \$100 fine and the participant rights may be revoked for the next season. Failure to pay any fine will result in your City of Rockville account being frozen. You may not register or rent any other City of Rockville property including community centers, picnic sites, senior center, nature center, swim center, or any other entity owned and operated by the City of Rockville until the fine is paid in full.

PARKING

There is a parking lot located at Woottons Mill Park. Please park in marked spaces and parking in front of the dumpster is not permitted. There is no vehicle access to the plot area for unloading supplies, so be prepared with a wagon or wheel barrow. Do not drive into the park for this is a violation punishable by a \$200 fine per [Sec. 14-53 Sub\(b\)](#).

TILLING

The City of Rockville tills the plots at the end of March in preparation for the April 1st opening date. This is an approximate opening date and is solely based on the weather. A large farm tractor is used to till the plots. Further tilling by the program participant is recommended, especially if the plot is not prepared for gardening within a week or so of the opening date.

FINDING YOUR CORRECT PLOT

The plots will be staked, marked with string, and numbered with a small utility flag placed in the center of the plot. Be sure to locate the correct plot. Be sure to count over and out to ensure the correct plot. Those who plant in the wrong plot will be required to clear the plot before moving to the correct plot.

PLANTING GUIDELINES

Gardeners must maintain the entire plot area. All weeds must be kept at a minimum even if gardeners use only a portion of the plot. Additionally, if gardeners are not planning to utilize the plot for the entire season the gardener is still responsible to maintain the weeds in the plot even when not in use. Only plants that perform their entire life cycle from seed to flower within a single season are permitted in this program. This allows for complete clean up at the end of season. Growing tall plants such as corn or sunflowers is limited. Tall plants may not block the sun access to a neighboring plot. It is recommended that tall plants be placed in the center of the plot to avoid this situation as much as possible. Structures such as trellises, wood ladders or other support systems built within a plot are permitted but limited to 4' in height.

WATER/HOSE

There are water spigots throughout the garden plot grid. Gardeners are responsible to bring their own hoses and a splitter to connect to the water source so that multiple gardeners may use the water spigot at the same time. Do not leave your hose connected to the water spigot. For safety reasons, all hoses

must be rolled up and returned to the plot. Alternatively, the hose must be buried along the pathway if you do not return the hose to the plot to prevent tripping/falling hazards. Hoses in violation will be removed. The City of Rockville is not responsible for hoses that have been removed because of violating this rule.

FENCING

The City of Rockville does not provide fencing. Gardeners may erect their own fencing. There are a variety of fencing materials that are allowed. For example, metal fencing, wood fencing and mesh fencing are options. If using mesh fencing, the mesh pattern must $\frac{3}{4}$ square in diameter or larger and higher than 3' from the ground. Mesh fencing may not be used if less than 3' from the ground.

WOOD CHIPS/PATHWAYS

A wood chip pile is located on-site. These wood chips may be used in the plots to maintain the weeds, as well as along the pathways that access the plots. Gardeners are responsible to maintain the pathway surrounding their plot. Replenishing the wood chip pile only occurs when the Parks crew completes projects throughout the City that create wood chips (i.e. tree trimming, removal of wood piles, etc.). There is no set schedule for wood chips to be delivered. All gardeners are welcome to use the wood chips at the garden site on a first-come, first-served basis.

CITY MAINTENANCE

The City of Rockville mows the area surrounding the garden perimeter every two weeks April through October. To avoid damaging any fencing, a grass buffer is left on the area surrounding the plot. Unsold plots, or abandoned plots will be cut down once per month once we have confirmed that the plot owner is not returning. Unsold plots that are taken over are the responsibility of the new owner to clear.

SMOKING

City of Rockville parks are smoke-free/vaping-free.

DUMPSTER/ORGANIC DISPOSAL BINS

Organic bins are located around the perimeter of the garden plot area. Signs in these bins are to be used for weed/plants or rocks/soil only. All other debris must be placed in the dumpster located in the parking lot area. Be sure to separate items accordingly.

PETS

All pets must always be leashed. Standard courtesy rules apply for cleaning up after pets. Pets are not permitted to roam the garden plot area.

CHEMICALS

The use of insecticides, herbicides, etc. are allowed with the utmost consideration for other gardeners. If using chemicals, be sure to follow the instructions provided on the product container. All items must be removed from the plot area after use. For safety reasons, chemical products may not be stored on site.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Gardeners experiencing any issues with wild animals at the garden plot site may call the Rockville Animal Control Services at 240-314-8937.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Gardeners are responsible to provide their own hoses, fencing, weed barrier materials, plants and tools. The garden plots are in an open public park. It is recommended that all items be labelled with a name and plot number.

STORM POLICY

The safety of all user groups in City of Rockville parks is the top priority. If the weather includes thunder, lightning or high winds, all guests must remain inside a secure building until the conditions change and safe use of the outdoor areas is appropriate. To learn more about outdoor lightning safety tips, please review these resources when planning your picnic: U.S. Golf Association, National Weather Service, and National Lightning Safety Institute. If you can see lightning, flee it. If you can hear thunder, clear the area. For every five seconds after seeing lightning, before hearing the associated thunder, the lightning is one mile away. Lightning storms travel faster than you think and may not be accurately reflected on radar weather maps. Guests may not return to the outdoor area until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike was seen and the last clap of thunder was heard. Extreme winds easily blow event equipment out of place and tree branches off the trees. Picnic shelters are not a safe environment during lightning storms or high winds.

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND – CODE OF ORDINANCE

CHAPTER 14: PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE III. – PARK RULES

https://library.municode.com/md/rockville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CICO_CH14PARE